

## Message Text

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46

ACTION SS-30

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FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8619

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 3927

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG NO

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER ON STATUS OF GON  
POSITION ON IEP

REF: (A) OSLO 3763 (B) OSLO 3356 (D) STATE 175375 (D) LONDON 10345

1. ON AUGUST 26 FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLUND ASKED ME TO MEET WITH HIM TO DISCUSS STATUS OF NORWEGIAN CONSIDERATION OF IEP. IN VERY FRANK PRESENTATION HE SAID SITUATION NOW IS AS FOLLOWS: PRIME MINISTER BRATTELI AND FRYDENLUND FAVOR THE CONCEPT AND WISH TO PARTICIPATE IN THE IEP. CERTAIN INFLUENTIAL MEMBERS OF FOREIGN MINISTRY (STATE SECRETARY ARNESEN AND GON BRUSSELS AMBASSADOR BOYESEN) FAVOR THE CONCEPT BUT HAVE DIFFICULTY WITH SOME OF THE PROCEDURES, FOR EXAMPLE, THE WEIGHTED VOTING AND OTHERS THAT HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED IN THE ECG. THEY FEEL THAT WHILE THEY MAY WISH TO STAY OFF THE DETAILS AND FOCUS ON THE CONCEPTS WHEN THE MATTERS IS SET BEFORE THE STORTING, THIS MAY NOT BE POSSIBLE. MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY JENS EVENSEN IS NOW BACK FROM CARACAS LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE AND WILL PLAY A GREATER ROLE IN THESE CONSIDERATIONS. HE FAVORS THE CONCEPT BUT IS CONCERNED THAT UNDER THE IEP THERE IS A CHANCE THAT NORWAY MAY LOSE CONTROL OF ITS OIL. FINANCE MINISTER KLEPPE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER ULVESETH SEE THIS PRIMARILY AS AN OIL ISSUE WHERE  
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THEY HAVE SERIOUS QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PROGRAM'S BENEFIT FOR

NORWAY.

2. IN THE STORTING, WHICH MUST APPROVE THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION ON IEP PARTICIPATION, THE DOMINANT ANTICIPATED UNDERCURRENT IS THAT THE IEP IS A FOOT IN THE DOOR FOR OUTSIDERS TO CONTROL NORWAY'S OIL. IF THIS CURRENT SWELLS THE STORTING WILL MOST LIKELY DISAPPROVE GON PARTICIPATION.

3. THE IEP ISSUE IS OF HIGH POLITICAL CONCERN AS IT COMES NOT FAR BEHIND THE NATIONAL DECISION TO STAY OUT OF THE EC, AN ISSUE WHICH FORCED THE LABOR GOVERNMENT FROM POWER, SPLIT THE PARTY AND GREATLY STRENGTHENED LEFTIST ELEMENTS IN THE STORTING. THE GOVERNMENT IS EXTREMELY CONCERNED THAT THE SAME EMOTION AND NATIONALISM LURKS IN THE IEP DECISION, AND THEY DID NOT WANT TO BE FELLED BY A REPETITION OF THAT EVENT.

4. A DISCUSSION OF THE MATTER FOLLOWED IN WHICH I ARGUED STRONGLY THE U.S. VIEW AS OUTLINED IN OUR EARLIER INSTRUCTION. IT WAS CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT FRYDENLUND KNEW THESE ARGUMENTS BUT WAS SEEKING RATHER TO FIND ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES TO THE PROBLEM. HE IS LOOKING FOR A WAY FOR NORWAY TO PARTICIPATE IN IEP AND AT THE SAME TIME ASSURE THE CRITICS THAT NORWAY HAS CONTROL OF ITS OWN OIL. HE IS THINKING OF A MEANS WHEREBY, FOR INSTANCE, NORWEGIANS COULD PLEDGE SOLIDARITY FOR IEP AND SUPPORT IT BUT NOT HAVE SOME OF THE CONTROLS IT WOULD IMPOSE ON THEIR OIL. FOR EXAMPLE, THE CANADIANS APPARENTLY SUGGESTED TO ARNESEN AT ONE TIME THAT NORWAY SEEK ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP. IT IS NOT CLEAR WHAT THAT MIGHT ENTAIL; ARNESEN WAS WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS AND DID NOT PURSUE THIS SUGGESTION.

5. TURNING TO THE SEPTEMBER 3 MEETING OF THE ECG, FRYDENLUND SAID THIS POLICY DILEMMA WILL AFFECT THE GON POSITION THERE. FRYDENLUND DOES NOT WANT THE GON PARTICIPANTS TO SEEK TO ACHIEVE COMPROMISES IN THAT MEETING ONLY TO FIND THAT THE GON CAN'T CARRY THE CONCEPT AT HOME. IN THAT CASE HE FEELS NORWAY WILL HAVE DONE A DISSERVICE TO ITSELF AND TO THE IEP PARTICIPANTS. THUS, HE NOW IS CONSIDERING THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE GON DELEGATION WOULD TAKE A LOW PRO-CONFIDENTIAL

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FILE POSITION AT THE MEETING. BUT HE WANTS US TO UNDERSTAND CLEARLY THAT SHOULD THE GON DELEGATION SEEM QUIET THERE, THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT NORWAY HAS NO PROBLEMS WITH THE IEP AS IT NOW STANDS.

6. PARENTHETICALLY HE ADDED THAT THE UK MADE ITS APPROACH TO NORWAY URGING IEP PARTICIPATION ON AUGUST 26 HE SAID ALSO HE WOULD EXPECT TO DISCUSS THE IEP DURING HIS SEPTEMBER

1-6 VISIT TO JAPAN. HE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD JAPAN HAD SOME RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE IEP AND HE WANTED TO DISCUSS WITH THEM THE BROAD AREAS OF THEIR INTERESTS AND CONCERNS WHILE AVOIDING DETAILED TALKS. HE IS AWARE THAT THE SWEDES ARE INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN THE IEP, WHICH HELPS SOMEWHAT.

7. HE CONCLUDED BY ASKING ME IF I WOULD SEE HIM ON SEPTEMBER 11 TO SEE IF THERE WERE ANY POSSIBLE VARIATIONS ON GON PARTICIPATION IN IEP THAT MIGHT BE COMMENDED. I AGREED TO DO THAT.

8. WHILE FRYDENLUND'S SUPPORT FOR IEP IS ASSURED AND HE KNOWS ALL THE ARGUMENTS, HE CLEARLY IS NOT CONFIDENT HE CAN SELL THE PROGRAM IN THE STARTING AND HE IS EARNESTLY SEEKING ALTERNATIVES WHICH WILL MAKE THE PROGRAM MORE PALATABLE TO MOST NORWEGIANS. WHILE I RECOGNIZE HOW IMPORTANT WE CONSIDER FULL NORWEGIAN PARTICIPATION, I BELIEVE IT WILL BE MOST USEFUL TO THIS END IF WE GIVE CAREFUL THOUGHT TO THE POSSIBILITY OF ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES FOR NORWEGIAN PARTICIPATION. I WOULD WANT IF POSSIBLE TO BE ABLE TO DISCUSS THESE WITH FRYDENLUND IN OUR SEPTEMBER MEETING. EVEN IF THE ALTERNATIVES ARE FOUND UNSATISFACTORY, AS THEY MAY WELL BE, I THINK THE EXERCISE OF CONSIDERING THEM RATIONALLY AND FULLY WOULD HELP STRENGTHEN HIS AND THE GON RESOLVE ON THIS MATTER.

9. ALSO, I THINK IT WILL BE HELPFUL TO US IF DURING FRYDENLUND'S VISIT TO JAPAN THAT HE MEET WITH A FAVORITE ATTITUDE FROM THE JAPANESE ON THE MATTER. THE DEPARTMENT AND EMBASSY TOKYO MAY WANT TO CONSIDER IF AND HOW THIS MAY BE POSSIBLE.

10. FINALLY, I THINK IT MIGHT BE VERY BENEFICIAL IF THE  
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SECRETARY TOOK THE INITIATIVE TO SEE FRYDENLUND ON THIS MATTER WHILE THE LATTER IS AT THE UNGA ON SEPTEMBER 23. FRYDENLUND IS ENORMOUSLY APPRECIATIVE FOR HIS EARLIER MEETINGS WITH THE SECRETARY, FOR WHOM HE HAS GREAT RESPECT, BUT HE ALSO DOES NOT WISH TO IMPOSE UPON THE SECRETARY'S BUSY SCHEDULE, AND I SUSPECT HE WILL PROBABLY BE RELUCTANT TO SEEK TO SEE THE SECRETARY THIS SESSION. I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE VERY BENEFICIAL IF THE SECRETARY WOULD TAKE THE INITIATIVE TO SEEK HIM ON THIS MATTER. SUCH AN EFFORT, PLACING THE IEP AND GON PARTICIPATION WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF BROAD, STRATEGIC WESTERN NEEDS, WOULD STRENGTHEN FRYDENLUND'S RESOLVE TO CARRY THE FIGHT THAT THE GON ANTICIPATES ON THIS ISSUE. I WOULD APPRECIATE THE DEPARTMENT'S ADVICE ON THIS MATTER BEFORE I SEE THE FOREIGN MINISTER SEPTEMBER 11.

BYRNE

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